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NO. 476
OCT.
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SUPERMAN'S ACTION COMICS

I'M HURLING YOU
CLEAR OFF THE
EARTH, SUPERMAN!

FROM NOW ON, THE
WORLD'S GREATEST
HERO IS *ME--*
VARTOX!



Fill in coupon, cut out, place in envelope & mail.

WE PAY POSTAGE!

Be Happy! Have Fun! Get Prizes or Cash from S.L.C.

Start to earn your prizes right away. Here's all you have to do. Cut out postage-free label and paste on any envelope. Fill in coupon, place in envelope and mail. We'll rush you everything you need at not cost to you.

Sell from our easy to carry Album of Personalized Christmas Cards that has a wide selection to suit everyone's taste. All fine quality cards that make selling so easy. Only \$3.95 a box, each with customer's name imprinted. No boxes to carry or return. No risk, no obligation, no investment. No limit to the number of prizes you can win ... or keep \$1.00 for each box you sell.

*Life is Great When You're a Winner
Everyone Who Tries Can Win*

Sales Leadership Club Dept. 7SN-7, Springfield, Mass. 01101

Without obligation, enroll me as a member. Rush me FREE Membership Card, FREE Album of Christmas Cards, FREE Prize Catalog and complete details on how to earn valuable prizes or big cash profits — the proven Sales Leadership way!

NAME _____
Print Clearly
 ADDRESS _____ APT. NO. _____
 CITY _____
 STATE _____ ZIP _____

CUT OUT POSTAGE-FREE LABEL -- PASTE ON ANY ENVELOPE

No
Postage Stamp
Necessary
If Mailed in the
United States

Postage
Will be Paid
by
Addressee

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
 First Class Permit No. 3105, Springfield, Mass.

SALES LEADERSHIP CLUB

DEPT. 7SN-7

SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01101



Happy Days at S.L.C.

WIN GREAT Prizes OR LOADS OF Cash!

**FREE CATALOG
Shows
Prizes
for Everyone**

Sell Personalized Christmas Cards It's Fun! It's Fast!



AURORA RACE SET
 Sell Only 9 Boxes



SPIN FISHING OUTFIT
 Sell Only 9 Boxes



24 ACTION TAIL SKATE BOARD
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RACCOON RADIO
 Sell Only 9 Boxes



SKILCRAFT QUAD SCIENCE SET
 Sell Only 9 Boxes



GLASS BOW ARCHERY
 Sell Only 9 Boxes



COX SKYMASTER
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 Sell Only 9 Boxes



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 Sell Only 9 Boxes



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ELECTRIC PIN BALL GAME
 Sell Only 9 Boxes



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 Sell Only 16 Boxes



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 Sell Only 16 Boxes



WALKIE-TALKIES (WITH CODE SENDER)
 Sell Only 9 Boxes



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 Sell Only 9 Boxes



ESTES READY-TO-LAUNCH ROCKET KIT
 Sell Only 9 Boxes



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 Sell Only 9 Boxes



1 MAN BOAT KIT
 Sell Only 9 Boxes



RALLY SPORT WATCH
 Sell Only 9 Boxes



TELSTAR TV GAME
 Sell Only 26 Boxes



ELECTRONIC DIGITAL WRISTWATCH
 Sell Only 16 Boxes



ARRGGHHH!

IT'S YOUR FAULT I'M CURSED
WITH THIS AGONIZING AFFLICTION--
AND FOR THAT YOU MUST PAY!

GREAT SCOTT! JUST WHAT
WBGS NEEDS TO BOOST THE
NEWS RATINGS--

-- ITS ANCHOR MAN
BEING ATTACKED BY
A BERSERK ALIEN
ON LIVE TV--!

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE
EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON,
KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--
WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY
GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS!
IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS HE
POSES AS MILD-MANNERED TV
NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--
AND BATTLES EVIL
ALL OVER EARTH
AND BEYOND
AS...

SUPERMAN
Created by
JERRY SIEGEL &
JOE SHUSTER



CLARK KENT'S NIGHTLY NEWSCAST ON WBGS-
TV HAD BECOME A REGULAR HABIT WITH MUCH
OF THE VIEWING AUDIENCE IN METROPOLIS! BUT
NOT EVEN THE GRIMMEST NEWS BULLETIN COULD
COMPARE WITH THE SHOCK OF THIS NIGHT'S
BROADCAST--WHICH IS MERELY A PRELUDE TO...

THE ATTACK OF THE ANTI-SUPER-HERO

STORY: CARY BATES ART: K. SCHAFFENBERGER & VINCE COLLETTA LETTERING: M. SNAPINN COLORING: JERRY SERPE

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SUBSCRIPTION DEPT.: DC COMICS INC., 155 Allen Blvd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11737. Annual subscription rate \$5.00. Outside U.S.A. \$6.00

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BOBBY--WIPE
US OFF THE
AIR--**QUICK!**

AND SOMEBODY CALL
THE POLICE WHILE
WE PULL THAT LUNATIC
IN THE SCI-FI OUTFIT
OFF CLARK!

GRARRR!

THEY'RE RIGHT ABOUT THE
LUNATIC PART-- BUT
UNFORTUNATELY, KARB-BRAK'S
UNEARTHLY APPEARANCE
IS ALL TOO REAL!

HE'LL KILL
ANYONE WHO
LAYS A HAND
ON HIM!

TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT CLARK'S EYES, READER...

...THOSE "INVISIBLE"
BEAMS ARE HEAT
VISION-- AND
THEY'RE ABOUT
TO CAUSE A
LIFE- SAVING
DIVERSION!

HEY! WHAT'S
WITH THE
LIGHTS?

THE WHOLE SYSTEM
MUST HAVE SHORT-
CIRCUITED!

WHAT A
TIME TO LOSE
POWER!

DON'T WORRY--THE
BACK-UP UNITS WILL
FLASH ON IN A
MOMENT!

LISTEN! THE
WEIRDO'S STOPPED
GROWLING!

I WONDER
WHAT--

BUT A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE
SILENCE IS OVERWHELMED BY
AN EAR-SHATTERING...

**CRAA-
ASHH!**

WE'VE GOT THE
LIGHTS BACK ON--

-- BUT NO ANCHORMAN!
WHAT HAPPENED TO CLARK
AND THE FREAK?

THERE'S YOUR
ANSWER-- OVER
THERE!



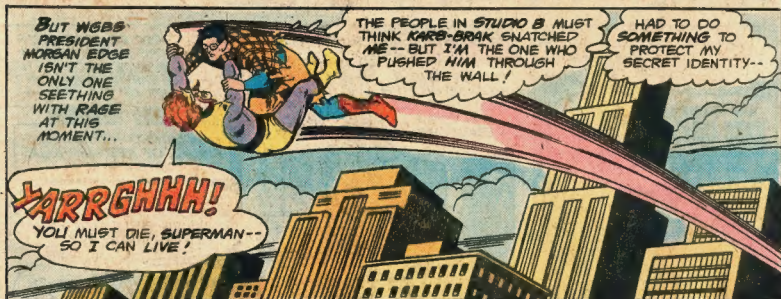
I THOUGHT ONLY "WALL-SMASHER" SUPERMAN COULD PULL OFF A STUNT LIKE THAT!

WHY, OF ALL PEOPLE--CLARK KENT?



COULDN'T THAT MONSTER HAVE WAITED TILL CLARK SIGNED OFF--?

JOSH--MR. EDGE IS ON THE PHONE... LINE-ONE! AND IS HE BURNING!



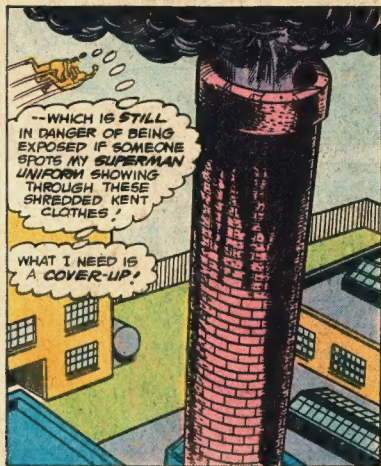
BUT WGBS PRESIDENT MORGAN EDGE ISN'T THE ONLY ONE SEETHING WITH RAGE AT THIS MOMENT...

THE PEOPLE IN STUDIO B MUST THINK KARB-BRAK SNATCHED ME-- BUT I'M THE ONE WHO PUSHED HIM THROUGH THE WALL!

HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO PROTECT MY SECRET IDENTITY--

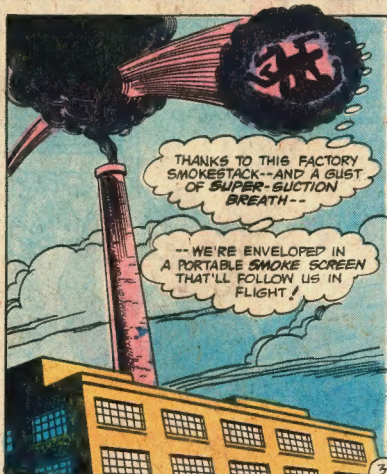
YARRGHHH!

YOU MUST DIE, SUPERMAN-- SO I CAN LIVE!



--WHICH IS STILL IN DANGER OF BEING EXPOSED IF SOMEONE SPOTS MY SUPERMAN UNIFORM SHOWING THROUGH THESE SHREDDED KENT CLOTHES!

WHAT I NEED IS A COVER-UP!



THANKS TO THIS FACTORY SMOKESTACK--AND A GUST OF SUPER-SUCTION BREATH--

--WE'RE ENVELOPED IN A PORTABLE SMOKE SCREEN THAT'LL FOLLOW US IN FLIGHT!



Get Rich And Famous.

The Famous Clark Bars. They're all so rich, and so good, you may have trouble making up your mind.

J.A.R. DISCOUNTS, INC. P.O. BOX 7, ROSELAND, N.Y. 11422

DISCOUNT MAGIC and JOKES



HAND BUZZER

This hair-raising surprise shocker fits in the palm of your hand. Guaranteed to give off a most electrifying shock. Just shake hands and watch the action that follows.

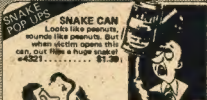
#4336 \$9.95



NICKELS-TO-DIMES

This device changes four Nickels into four Dimes, before your eyes. Easy to do. All brass model.

#4324 \$1.99



Snake
Pop Ups

Snake Can
Looks like peanuts,
sounds like peanuts. But
when victim opens this
can, out flies a huge snake!

#4321 \$1.99

ALSO AVAILABLE:
REALISTIC
SNAKE LIGHTER
#4733 70¢



SHOCK BOOK

Appears to be a regular book, but when your victim opens it he is in for the shock of his life. Harmless. Battery not included.

#4371 \$4.95



MAGIC CUPS & BALLS

Hardy magic trick. Balls seem to pass through solid cups. Great effect and easy to do.

#4372 \$1.29



DOLLAR BILL SNATCHER

This object fits in the palm of your hand and automatically catches dollar bills away from your victims.

#4324 \$1.29



BLACK SOAP

This bar of soap looks real, but just place in soap dish and watch the fun begin!

#4301 70¢ (2 for \$1.39)



DISAPPEARING INK

Just squirt this phony ink on and watch the fun begin! When it dries, it vanishes! Giant size bottle.

#4315 75¢ (2 for \$1.39)



SWITCH BLADE ACTION COMB

When closed it looks like a switch blade, but just flick your wrist and instead of a knife, out flies a comb. Really scary.

#4133 \$1.39



MAGIC COLOR VISION

This magical cube lets you read people's minds. Easy magic.

#4319 \$6.95



WHOOPEE CUSHION

When the victim sits down on this cushion, a loud embarrassing sound is heard. Everybody's favorite joke!

#4423 \$6.95



MARKED CARDS

For use in magic tricks to fool friends, or with big in card games! High quality.

#4343 \$1.29



BALD HEAD WIG

Wig is beautiful. One minute you have hair and the next, you're bald! Friends and relatives will get a great kick out of this joke.

#4461 \$1.29

More Great Gags & Tricks

Hot Water Taffy

#4291 \$6.95

Trick 7 & 11 Dice

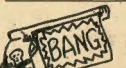
#4021 \$6.95

Car & Revolver Rope

#4187 \$6.95

Mythic Bombs / Joke Taps

#4882 \$6.95 ea. 2/\$1.18



BANG FLAG GUN

Looks like a real gun. But when you pull the trigger, out pops a flag instead. Scams anyone!

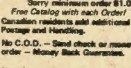
#4477 \$1.39



MAGIC CHINESE STICKS

One of the best magic tricks ever. Strings and Tosses magically rise (2 sticks) Everybody's favorite!

#4612 \$2.78



NEW YORK STATE RESIDENTS ADD
APPROPRIATE SALES TAX

COMPARE OUR PRICES AND SAVE!!!

**SWITCH-BLADE COMB**

Surprise friends when you pull out this 5" slim silver case - it looks like a switchblade knife - but, press the button & SNAP-Pen comes a long metal comb!

#511 \$2.00

**POCKET SPY SCOPE**

Pen sized 8 power telescope spots objects blocks away. Great for watching sports, guns, counter spying. Power lens optically ground to view ever detail.

#425 \$1.75

**COLOR SMOKE CLOUDS**

Just light one and thick clouds of color rise to the ceiling. Watch them fill the room! Used for magic tricks, T.V. signaling, etc.

#222 2for\$1.00

**10 INSTRUMENTS IN ONE**

This amazing (3 1/2" when folded) in ventoon, has: 1. reading lens, 2. microscope, 3. telescope, 4. barometer, 5. compass, 6. solar clock, 7. mirror, 8. magnifying mirror, 9. lighter, 10. transmitter & more!

#030 \$1.00

**FLESH EATING PLANTS**

The most unusual plant in the world! Eats flies, bugs, insects, even meat. Instructions & special soil included.

#202 \$1.00

**JOY SUZZER**

Wind it up... Wear it on your finger like a ring & give your friends the SHOCK of their life! Touch somebody and watch them JUMP.

#450 \$1.00

**Exploding PEN**

Everyone, especially your victim will get a bang out of this one! Looks like a real pen. Watch the surprise when they start to write and BANG! Can be used over and over again. Hottest.

#664 \$1.50

**FREE HYPNO-COIN**

With 25 lessons in Hypnotism. The magic power of hypnosis can be yours! Hypnotize at a glance! Many people play your commands, strengthen your memory & much more! Order 25 lesson course & receive HYPNO-COIN free.

#250 \$1.00

**MINI SPY CAMERA**

Now take secret or regular pictures with a camera that is easily concealed in the palm of your hand. Precision ground lens. Takes clear close up or distant pictures. Solid all metal construction. Ten pictures per roll.

#007 Camera \$1.75

#077 3 rolls film \$1.00

**PRANKS & JOCKS**

Have the last laugh with these great pranks and jokes!

#313 Smeared powder \$1.00

#503 Black soap .75

#508 Disappearing ink .75

#124 Red hot pepper gum 1.00

**"SPUD" GUN**

New. Fast action gun that shoots potato pellets as far as 50' feet! More than 1000 shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless.

#300 \$1.50

**X-RAY SPECS**

An amazing illusion! Apparently see thru bones, thru skin, thru clothes, etc. Thrill and Embarrass your friends!

#055 \$1.00

**MONEY MAKER**

Insert a blank piece of paper into the machine... turn the knob PRISTO... from the other side COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert a dollar bill & see it change to a \$5.00 or \$10.00! Loads of mays, really & fun.

#750 \$1.25

**BE A VENTRILOQUIST**

Appear to throw voice into desks, under beds, out of pets, small, pocket easily hidden in mouth. Easy instructions.

#612 \$1.00

**MINI PISTOL**

Fires real blanks! Extra loud explosion! 2" long. Barrel opens to load, hammer cocks & fires when trigger is pulled. Rimmed & ammo included!

#306 \$1.50

#305 Extra Ammo \$1.50

**MINI SKULL FLASHLIGHT**

Lights at touch of SECRET button. FREE key chain. Battery included.

#952 \$1.00

**FUN FACTORY, DEPT. D-136
117 UNION ST. PALISADES PARK, N.J. 07650**

YOUR SATISFACTION IS GUARANTEED
IF NOT 100% SATISFIED, I MAY RETURN ANY PART OF MY PURCHASE FOR FULL REFUND OF PURCHASE PRICE.

Item	No	How Many	Price Each	Total

All orders shipped same day! Post & insg 25c
Use other paper if necessary Catalog 25c

TOTAL ENCLOSED

NAME _____ (print)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU'RE NOT A WEREWOLF

Every now and then, do you get this uncontrollable urge to bite into something that's really got some meat in it?

Are you tired of sugar-sweet snacks that dissolve in your mouth, and crunchy snacks that you can hardly tell you ate, and all the other boring stuff you have to put up with, every day?

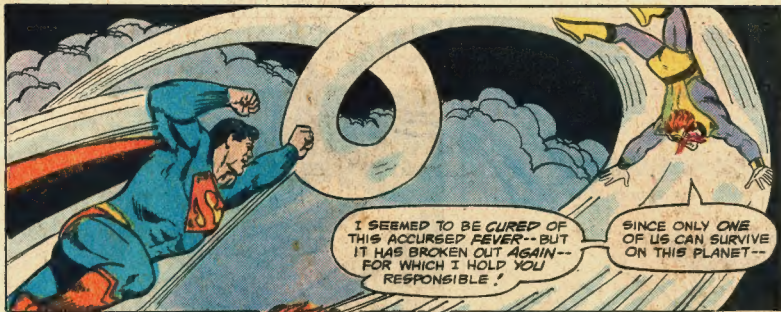
Well, take heart. And, while you're at it, take Slim Jim along in your pocket.

Slim Jim is a chewy, all-meat snack that comes in five very un-boring flavors. Mild, spicy, salami, bacon, and pizza. And you can find it at the grocery store. Or at a lot of the places where you've been getting those sissy snacks.

You might want to carry a few extra ones, too. Then, if you meet a werewolf, you can give him something to sink his teeth into instead of you.

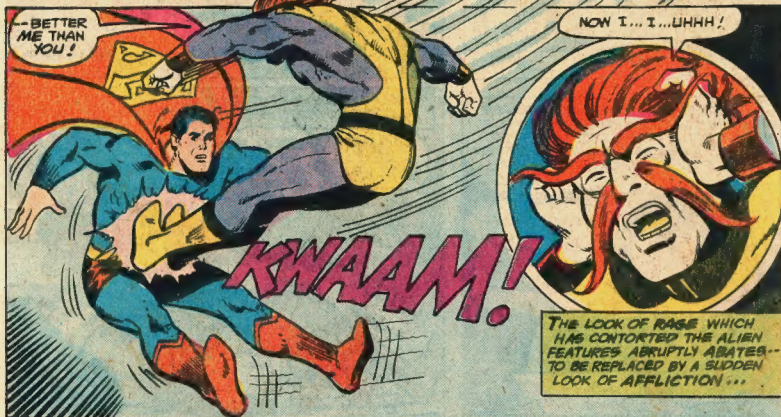


A LITTLE LESS THAN A MEAL. A LITTLE MORE THAN A SNACK.



I SEEMED TO BE CURED OF THIS ACCURSED FEVER-- BUT IT HAS BROKEN OUT AGAIN-- FOR WHICH I HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE !

SINCE ONLY ONE OF US CAN SURVIVE ON THIS PLANET--



--BETTER ME THAN YOU !

NOW I... I... UHHH !

KWAAM !

THE LOOK OF RAGE WHICH HAS CONTORTED THE ALIEN FEATURES ABRUPTLY ABATES-- TO BE REPLACED BY A SUDDEN LOOK OF AFFLICTION ...



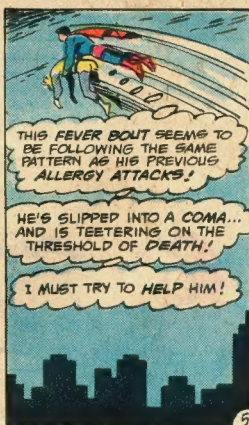
...AND THE BATTLE IS OVER !

POOR KARB-BRAK ! UNDER NORMAL CONDITIONS, HE'S PEACEFUL -- IN HIS GUISE OF CONSTRUCTION WORKER ANDREW MEDA. *

IT'S HIS CHRONIC ALLERGY TO OTHER SUPER-POWERED BEINGS THAT MAKES HIM A MENACE AND BRINGS ON THE DREAD FEVER-RAGE !



* THE ASTOUNDING CASE-HISTORY OF KARB-BRAK WAS CHRONICLED IN ACTION COMICS #460-463! -- JULIE



THIS FEVER BOLT SEEMS TO BE FOLLOWING THE SAME PATTERN AS HIS PREVIOUS ALLERGY ATTACKS !

HE'S SLIPPED INTO A COMA... AND IS TEETERING ON THE THRESHOLD OF DEATH !

I MUST TRY TO HELP HIM !

THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE--NESTLED IN THE VAST WASTELANDS OF THE BARREN ARCTIC...

I BROUGHT KARB-BRAK HERE ONCE BEFORE--AND MANAGED TO BREAK THE FEVER BY ALLOWING HIM TO GO THROUGH CLINICAL "DEATH"!

BUT DO I DARE TAKE THAT RISK A SECOND TIME?



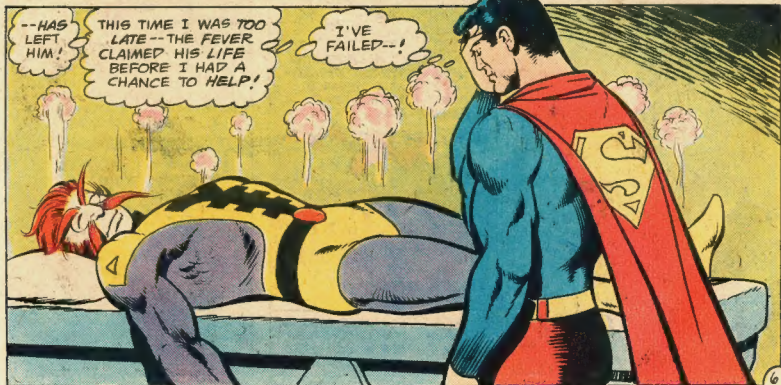
--I CONSULTED MY SUPER-COMPUTER IN THE NEXT ROOM...PROGRAMMED IT TO RETRACE THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUERS AND EVERY OTHER KNOWN SUPER-POWERED HERO ON EARTH!

CONCLUSION--NOT ONE HAS BEEN NEAR METROPOLIS IN THE LAST 48 HOURS! *

*BLACK LIGHTNING--ANOTHER RESIDENT SUPER-HERO--HAS NO SUPER-POWERS! --JULIE

--HAS LEFT HIM! THIS TIME I WAS TOO LATE--THE FEVER CLAIMED HIS LIFE BEFORE I HAD A CHANCE TO HELP!

I'VE FAILED--!



AT LEAST THEN I KNEW I WAS THE CAUSE OF HIS CONDITION!

BUT THIS TIME, KARB-BRAK WAS ALREADY FEVERISH WHEN HE ENCOUNTERED ME!

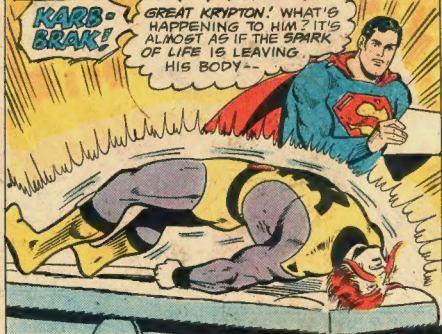
THAT CAN ONLY MEAN ANOTHER BEING WITH SUPER-POWERS HAS TRIGGERED HIM OFF! AND YET--

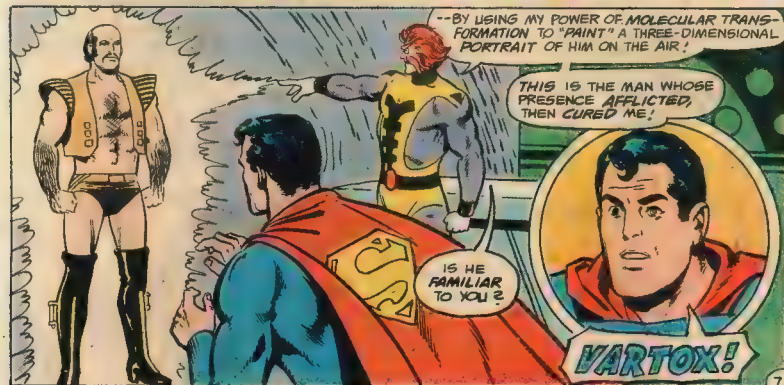
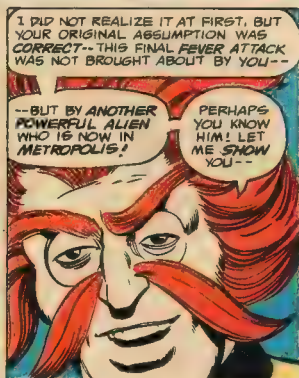
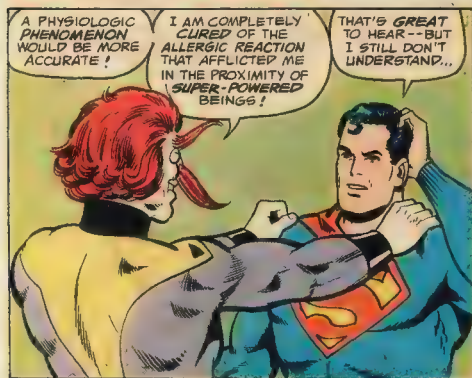
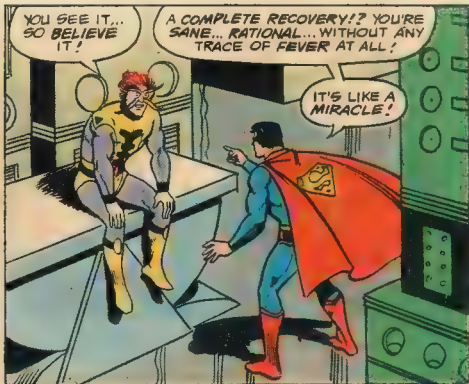


NEXT MOMENT--THE TRANQUIL SILENCE OF THE MAJESTIC CITADEL IS SHATTERED BY A SUPER-SHOUT--

KARB-BRAK!

GREAT KRYPTON! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HIM? IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE SPARK OF LIFE IS LEAVING HIS BODY--





LATER THAT DAY, 1,000 FEET
OVER THE STREETS
OF METROPOLIS...

WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING
FOR HOURS--AND STILL NO
SIGN OF CLARK OR THAT
ALIEN!

I JUST HEARD FROM THE
POLICE CHIEF--NONE OF HIS
PATROL TEAMS ON THE
GROUND HAVE COME
ACROSS ANY CLUES
EITHER!

WHAT WOULD KARB-
BRAK WANT FROM A
MILD-MANNERED
DEFENSELESS NEWS-
CASTER ANYWAY?

YOU HEARD WHAT JOSH SAID-- CLARK
WAS PULLED OUT OF STUDIO B BEFORE
HE COULD EVEN YELL FOR HELP! AND
THE DESCRIPTION WAS THE SAME AS
THE ALIEN THAT STEVE LOMBARD
FILMED FIGHTING SUPERMAN!*

*BACK IN ACTION COMICS #461!-- JULIE

RELAX, LOIS! IF THAT
REPORT ABOUT
SUPERMAN SHOWING
UP TO FIGHT THAT
BRUISER IS TRUE--
IT'S A SAFE BET HE
GOT CLARK TO SAFETY!

THEN WHY
HASN'T HE
SHOWN UP
SINCE?

SOMETIMES I WISH
CLARK REALLY WERE
SUPERMAN--AS I
USED TO
SUSPECT!

IF I KNEW THAT WERE
TRUE, I WOULDN'T BE
SO CONCERNED!

BUT WITH SUPERMAN
BATTLING A VILLAIN WHO
SEEMS TO BE AS STRONG
AS HE IS, I HAVE TWO
MEN TO WORRY ABOUT!

TELL YOU WHAT,
PILOT--LET'S TAKE
ONE MORE SWEEP
OVER THE EAST SIDE
BEFORE WE CALL
IT QUITS!

OKAY,
OLSEN!

GOOD GRIEF! THE
CROSS WINDS THAT
BLEW ME OFF
COURSE ARE SENDING
ME DIRECTLY INTO
THOSE COPTER
BLADES!

Wonder Woman in "COOKY LA MOO ON BROADWAY"

TIMES SQUARE. STEVE TREVOR POSING FOR A PUBLICITY PHOTO. ACCIDENTALLY TOUCHES THE WRONG WIRE AND CREATES A SHORT CIRCUIT ON A HUGE ELECTRIC POSTER. "COOKY LA MOO", THE MOVIE STAR ELECTRIC SIGN, STRANGELY COMES TO LIFE AND BECOMES COOKY LA MOO, ECOTESQUE MOVIE STAR, 60 FEET TALL.



... AND GOES BERSERK!!!

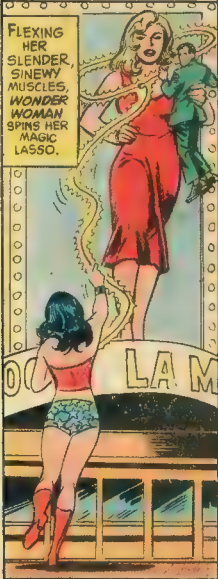
I'M A BIG STAR! STEVE HOWARD--YOU BE MY PRESS AGENT!

HELP! COOKY LA MOO'S ESCAPED FROM THE MOVIE SIGN... SHE'S GONE CRAZY!

AAHHH!!!

SUFFERING SAPHRO, IT'S MY DARLING STEVE! AS THEY SAY IN THE COMICS, "THIS IS A JOB FOR WONDER WOMAN"... BUT REALLY...

FLEXING HER SLENDER, SINEWY MUSCLES, WONDER WOMAN SPINS HER MAGIC LASSO.



BEFORE THE LASSO CAN DO ITS MAGIC, COOKY PULLS WONDER WOMAN UP TO HER.



THIS IS NO WAY FOR A MOVIE STAR TO BEHAVE... THINK OF YOUR IMAGE, DEAR...

YES! MY IMAGE!!

NOW'S MY CHANCE! COOKY-- HAVE A TWINKIES® SNACK CAKE FROM HOSTESS®! WHO CAN RESIST THAT GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE WITH CREAMED FILLING?

COME UP AND SEE ME AGAIN...WITH MORE TWINKIES SNACK CAKES!

HAPPY HERMES MY LASSO STILL HAS ITS MAGIC!

AND TWINKIES SNACK CAKES ARE STILL DELICIOUS ON OR OFF BROADWAY!

COOKY LA MOO WHEN YOU'RE NICE, WE LOVE YOU! AND TWINKIES SNACK CAKE, WE ALWAYS LOVE YOU

SMILE!

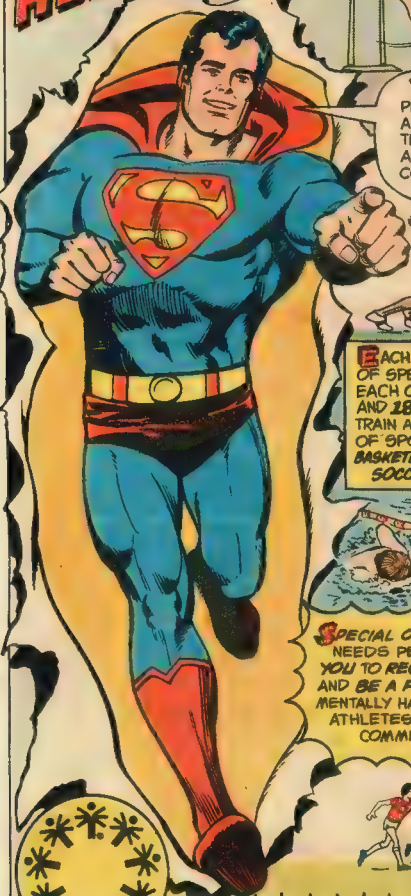
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SECOND--WITH
THE DOOMED
PARACHUTIST
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AWAY FROM A
WHIRLING
DEATH...

SNAAP!

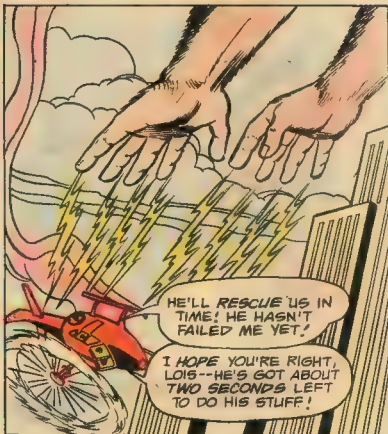
??
SOMETHING'S
GRABBING ME--
PULLING ME
AWAY?



TROUBLE!
SOMETHING'S
ENTANGLED
IN OUR BLADES!

WE'RE BEING
THROWN OUT
OF CONTROL!

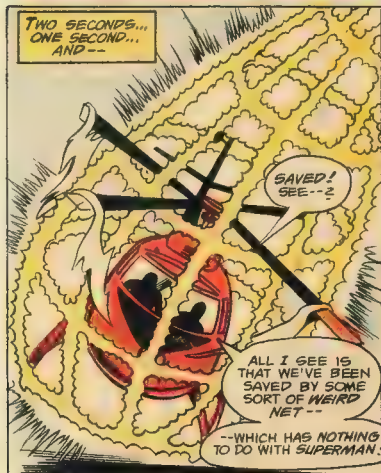
WHAT'S TO WORRY?
METROPOLIS IS
SUPERMAN
TERRITORY!



HE'LL RESCUE US IN
TIME! HE HASN'T
FAILED ME YET!

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT,
LOIS--HE'S GOT ABOUT
TWO SECONDS LEFT
TO DO HIS STUFF!

TWO SECONDS...
ONE SECOND...
AND--



SAVED!
SEE--?

ALL I SEE IS
THAT WE'VE BEEN
SAVED BY SOME
SORT OF WEIRD
NET--

--WHICH HAS NOTHING
TO DO WITH SUPERMAN!



WHO
IS THAT
LIFE-
SAVER?

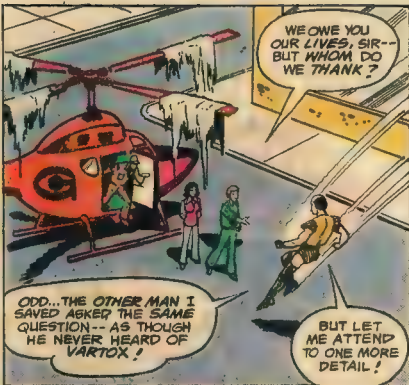
HE DOESN'T
LOOK ANYTHING
LIKE SUPERMAN--



"--BUT HE SURE COMES TO THE RESCUE LIKE SUPERMAN!"

HIS GLOWING NET FADED AWAY AS SUDDENLY AS IT APPEARED!

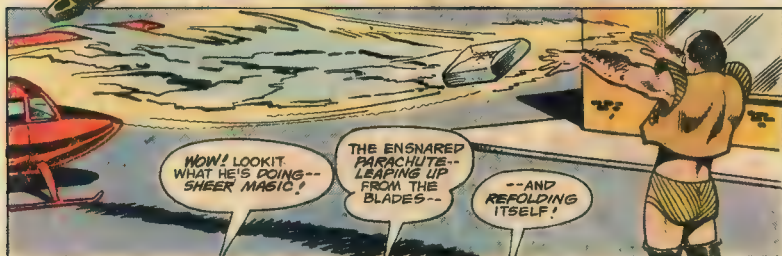
WHAT DO YOU CALL A SUPER-POWER LIKE THAT?



WE OWE YOU OUR LIVES, SIR-- BUT WHOM DO WE THANK?

ODD...THE OTHER MAN I SAVED ASKED THE SAME QUESTION-- AS THOUGH HE NEVER HEARD OF VARTOX!

BUT LET ME ATTEND TO ONE MORE DETAIL!



NOW! LOOKIT. WHAT HE'S DOING-- SHEER MAGIC!

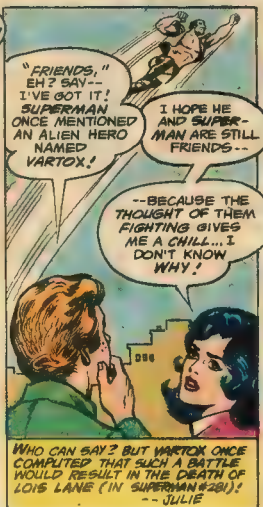
THE ENSNARED PARACHUTE-- LEAPING UP FROM THE BLADES--

--AND REFOLDING ITSELF!



HERE YOU ARE--YOU WILL FIND THE FABRIC COMPLETELY MENDED! IF I HAD BEEN MORE FAMILIAR WITH THIS APPARATUS, I WOULD NOT HAVE ALLOWED IT TO UPSET YOUR AIRCRAFT!

NOW, FRIENDS, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME--

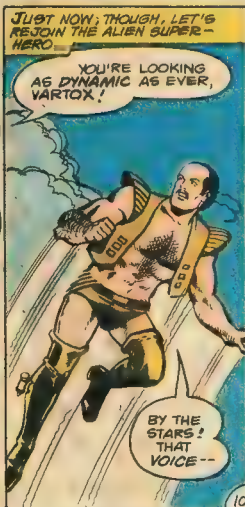


"FRIENDS," EH? SAY-- I'VE GOT IT! SUPERMAN ONCE MENTIONED AN ALIEN HERO NAMED VARTOX!

I HOPE HE AND SUPER-MAN ARE STILL FRIENDS--

--BECAUSE THE THOUGHT OF THEM FIGHTING GIVES ME A CHILL...I DON'T KNOW WHY!

WHO CAN SAY? BUT VARTOX ONCE COMPLETED THAT SUCH A BATTLE WOULD RESULT IN THE DEATH OF LOIS LANE (IN SUPERMAN #281)! -- JULIE



JUST NOW, THOUGH, LET'S REJOIN THE ALIEN SUPER-HERO--

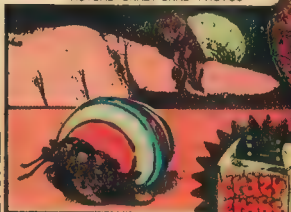
YOU'RE LOOKING AS DYNAMIC AS EVER, VARTOX!

BY THE STARS! THAT VOICE--

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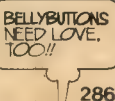
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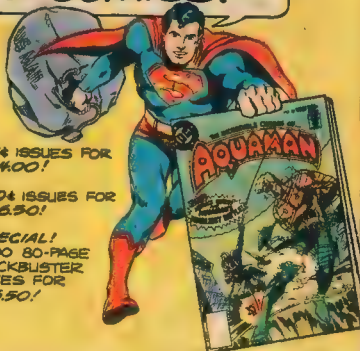
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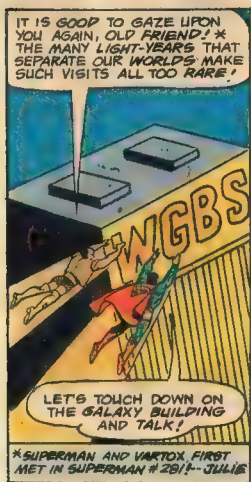
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'TIS YOU, SUPERMAN!

I CAME HERE JUST IN TIME TO SEE YOUR SPECTACULAR DOUBLE-SAVE!

YOU HAD SUCH COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE SITUATION, I HELD BACK AND ADMIRERD YOUR STYLE!



IT IS GOOD TO GAZE UPON YOU AGAIN, OLD FRIEND! * THE MANY LIGHT-YEARS THAT SEPARATE OUR WORLDS MAKE SUCH VISITS ALL TOO RARE!

LET'S TOUCH DOWN ON THE GALAXY BUILDING AND TALK!

*SUPERMAN AND VARTOX FIRST MET IN SUPERMAN #261!--JULIE



VARTOX--THIS IS KARB-BRAK--I BELIEVE THE TWO OF YOU HAVE ALREADY MET!

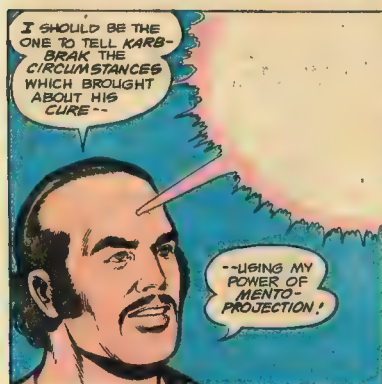
INDEED WE HAVE! HIS DREADED ALLERGY TO SUPER-POWERS IS NO SECRET TO ME!



FORMER ALLERGY, TO BE PRECISE! I HAVE BEEN CURED--AND I OWE IT ALL TO YOU!

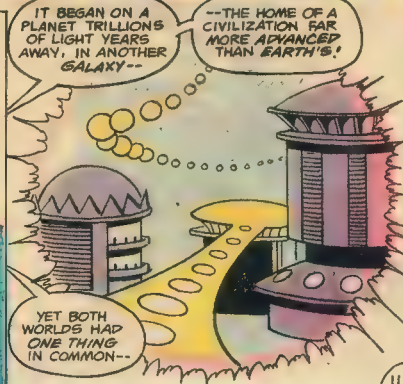
NOW THAT WE THREE ARE TOGETHER, AN EXPLANATION IS IN ORDER!

ALLOW ME, SUPERMAN!



I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO TELL KARB-BRAK THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT HIS CURE--

--USING MY POWER OF MENTO-PROJECTION!



IT BEGAN ON A PLANET TRILLIONS OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY, IN ANOTHER GALAXY--

--THE HOME OF A CIVILIZATION FAR MORE ADVANCED THAN EARTH'S!

YET BOTH WORLDS HAD ONE THING IN COMMON--

"--FOR THIS PLANET, LIKE EARTH, WAS UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF A DEDICATED SUPER-CHAMPION!"



LOOK--
UP ON
HIGH!

IT IS OUR HERO--
OUR DEFENDER!

WE ARE
BLESSED TO
HAVE SUCH A
VALIANT
PROTECTOR!

BUT HIS ADMIRERS HAD NO
INKLING OF THE DREAD SECRET
WHICH THEIR BELOVED HERO
HAD BEEN CONCEALING FROM
THEM...

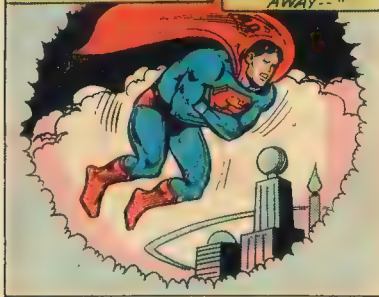


GREAT
KRYPTON!

WHAT I'M SEEING--
CANNOT BE TRUE!

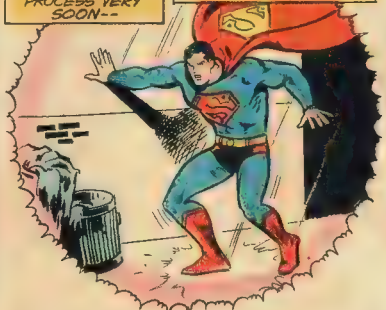
"...UNTIL FINALLY, THE
HARSH REALITY OF WHAT
WAS HAPPENING TO HIM
BECAME TOO AGONIZING
TO CONCEAL ANY LONGER!

"THIS HERO HAD
TO ADMIT TO HIM-
SELF THAT HIS
SUPER-POWERS
WERE FADING
AWAY--"



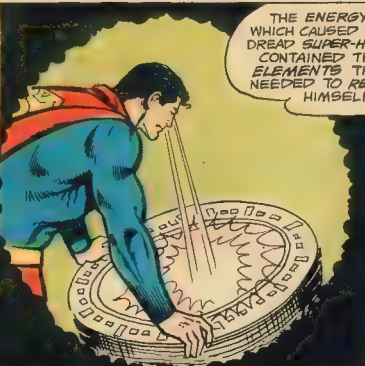
"AND THAT UNLESS
HE FOUND A MEANS
OF REVERSING THE
DETERIORATION
PROCESS VERY
SOON--"

"--HE WOULD NO LONGER
BE ABLE TO PROTECT THE
PLANET AND THE PEOPLE
HE SO DEARLY LOVED!"



"IN DESPERATION,
HE BEGAN
USING HIS
SUPER-SCIENCE
TO SCAN OTHER
WORLDS FOR
THE RARE
ELEMENTS
WHICH WOULD
RESTORE
HIS POWERS..."

"BUT HIS
COSMIC
SEARCH
WAS FRUITLESS--
UNTIL HE
FOCUSED
ON EARTH..."



THE ENERGY TOXINS
WHICH CAUSED KARB-BRAK'S
DREAD SUPER-HERO ALLERGY
CONTAINED THE VITAL
ELEMENTS THIS HERO
NEEDED TO REVITALIZE
HIMSELF!

BUT THERE WAS
ONLY ONE WAY
TO GAIN ACCESS
TO THESE
ELEMENTS!





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☐ 4 pkgs. \$1.00



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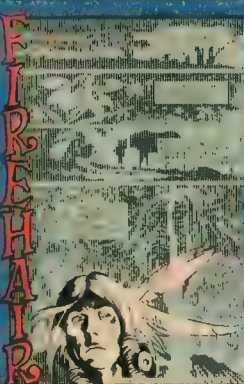
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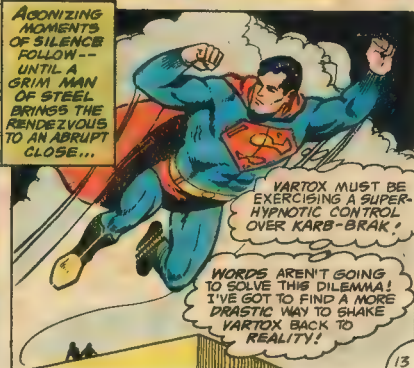
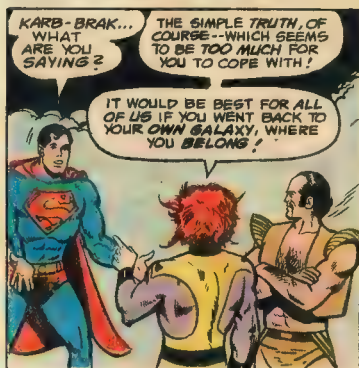
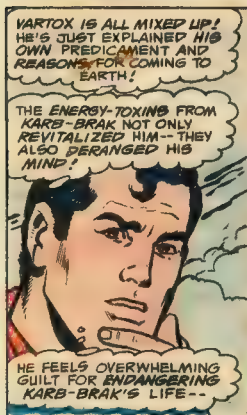
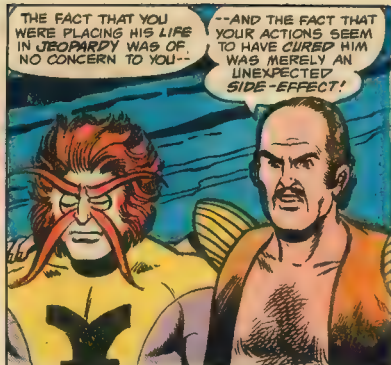
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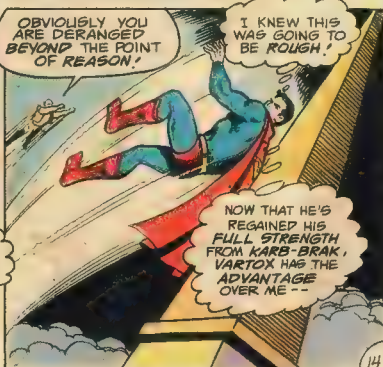
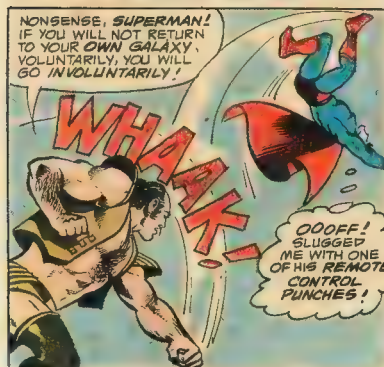
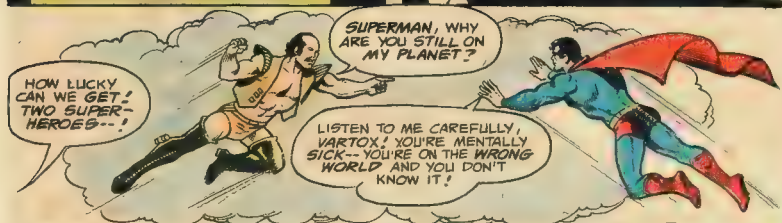
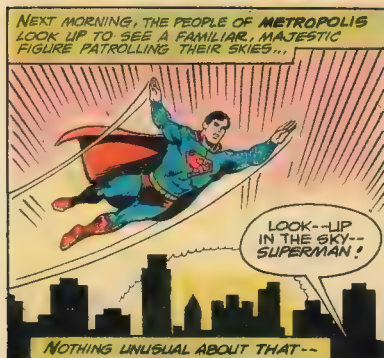
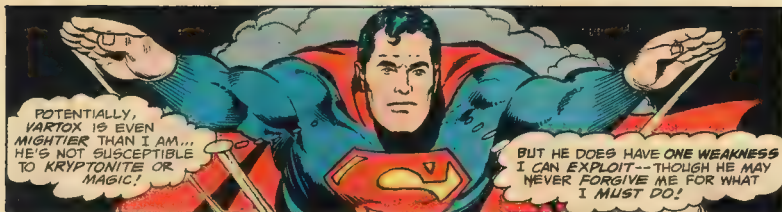
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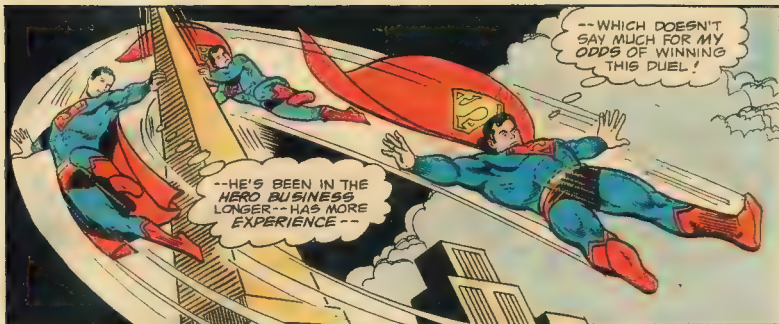
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--WHICH DOESN'T SAY MUCH FOR MY ODDS OF WINNING THIS DUEL!

--HE'S BEEN IN THE HERO BUSINESS LONGER--HAS MORE EXPERIENCE--



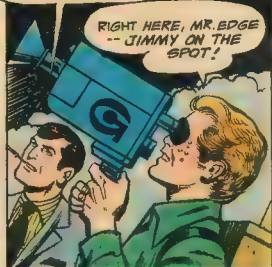
I DON'T LIKE TO FIGHT UNDERHANDED--

--BUT VARTOX LEAVES ME NO CHOICE!

BELOW--ALL EYES ARE FOCUSED ON THE TITANIC STRUGGLE RAGING IN THE SKY ABOVE...

FIRST, KENT CALLS IN TO SAY KARB-BRAK LEFT HIM TOO SHAKEN TO WORK--

--AND NOW LOIS HAS MYSTERIOUSLY DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT! WHERE DO ALL MY TOP NEWSPEOPLE GO WHEN I NEED THEM?



RIGHT HERE, MR. EDGE -- JIMMY ON THE SPOT!



WHHH!

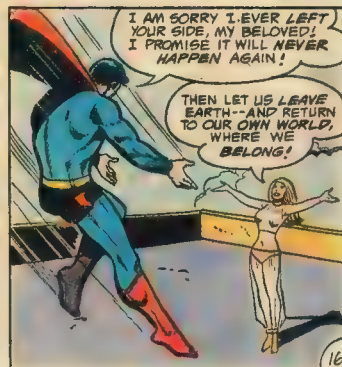
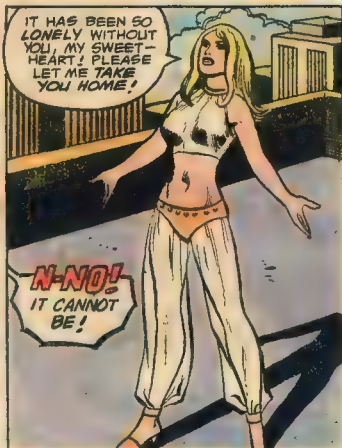
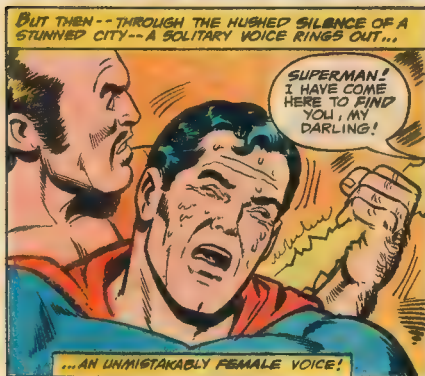
BELIEVE ME, SUPERMAN--I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU-- BUT YOU HAVE BECOME TOTALLY IRRATIONAL!

FRACK!



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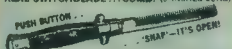
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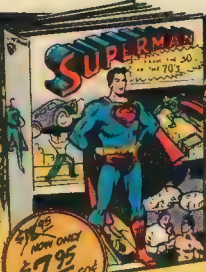
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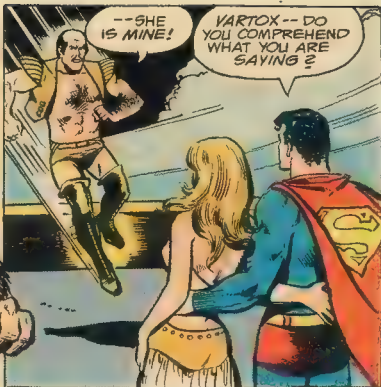
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ALLOW IT!

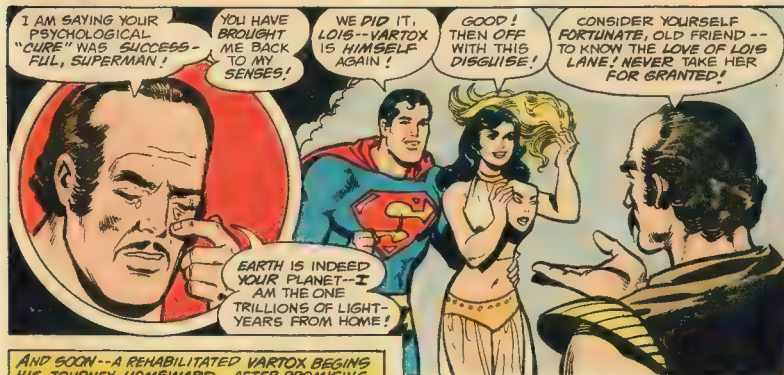
YOU CANNOT
GO BACK WITH
HER, SUPERMAN!

SHE IS
NOT YOUR
WIFE--



--SHE
IS MINE!

VARTOX-- DO
YOU COMPREHEND
WHAT YOU ARE
SAYING?



I AM SAYING YOUR
PSYCHOLOGICAL
"CURE" WAS SUCCESS-
FUL, SUPERMAN!

YOU HAVE
BROUGHT
ME BACK TO
MY
SENSES!

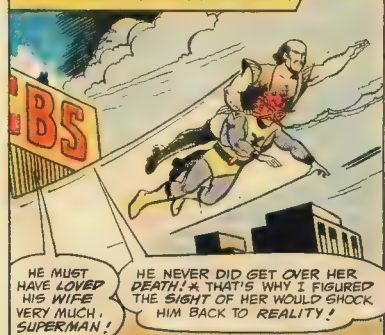
WE DID IT,
LOIS--VARTOX
IS HIMSELF
AGAIN!

GOOD!
THEN OFF
WITH THIS
DISGUISE!

CONSIDER YOURSELF
FORTUNATE, OLD FRIEND --
TO KNOW THE LOVE OF LOIS
LANE! NEVER TAKE HER
FOR GRANTED!

EARTH IS INDEED
YOUR PLANET--I
AM THE ONE
TRILLIONS OF LIGHT-
YEARS FROM HOME!

AND SOON--A REHABILITATED VARTOX BEGINS
HIS JOURNEY HOMEWARD-- AFTER PROMISING
TO DELIVER A COMPLETELY CURED KARB-BRAK
TO HIS HOME-PLANET ON THE WAY...



HE MUST
HAVE LOVED
HIS WIFE
VERY MUCH,
SUPERMAN!

HE NEVER DID GET OVER HER
DEATH! * THAT'S WHY I FIGURED
THE SIGHT OF HER WOULD SHOCK
HIM BACK TO REALITY!



VARTOX WAS
SURE RIGHT
ABOUT ONE
THING, LOIS--

KNOWING YOU MAKES ME
THE LUCKIEST HERO IN
THE UNIVERSE!

THE END

*A DEATH FULLY RECOUNTED IN SUPERMAN #281A--JULIE

NEXT ISSUE--A SUPER-DOUBLE-FEATURE!
SUPERMAN BATTLES A STRANGE NEW MENACE--
"THE LAND-LORDS OF EARTH!"
PLUS A NEW TALE OF THE PRIVATE LIFE OF CLARK KENT!
ON SALE THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST!



Dear Editor:

I am often less than thrilled with Cary Bates' continued stories, but this time (*Action* #472's "Phantom Touch of Death") I will forgive the overly dramatic "be-sure-to-be-here-next-issue" business because the suspense was already in the story and thus did not have to be created artificially. The *Phantom Zone* saga is developing into one of Cary's better stories of late. He has created some potentially interesting characters: *Faora* apparently has some kind of master plan which we will find out about next issue. I hope she is given a little more depth—right now she is a Kryptonian variant of the all-too-common martial arts expert-villain. Still, it is a novel twist to have the *Man of Steel* vulnerable to Kryptonian fighting techniques rather than the usual red-sun or gravitational gimmicks, or magic. The other player in this tale, Jackson Porter, is one I would like to see become a recurring character. He could be worked up into a different kind of individual—semi-tragic, but very nice. It seems he and Clark could become friends.

Apart from the possibilities presented by the characters, the story itself was quite good. The narrative style was slick, the dialogue realistic, and the humor unobtrusive ("Paskorium," indeed!). The art was also of high quality. Reams have been written about the excellence of Curt Swan, and by now there is nothing new to say. I will therefore be echoing countless other fans when I say Curt's action scenes are among the very best in the business; but I'll say it anyway. Some of the angles he uses are incredible.

Kunkel, Calnan and Blaisdell have produced another fine back-up in "If I'm over Here—What Am I Doing over There?" As an April Fool's story, it was totally unexpected and thus the more charming. For a while there, you almost had me believing Steve Lombard was going nuts! Lately the old Slinger has been given more depth; it was desperately needed. No one wants to read about an immature boob month after month. The story was very clever, and I certainly never suspected *Batman* was Steve's "conscience." I suspected someone was hoaxing him, but I didn't guess who or how. The story had just enough humor and elements of truth to be memorable.

Re: the question of *Action* back-ups: I favor a variety of features including member of the *Galaxy* staff, Clark Kent, and perhaps mini-teams you wouldn't find elsewhere (can you imagine a *Green Arrow*—Steve Lombard tale?). I have been quite pleased with the back-ups in recent issues and look forward to future stories.

Rich Montaloni

13 Rowley St., Apt. 3
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

(We have a really unusual one coming soon—*The Secret Life of Lex Luthor*—E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

Not only am I tired of Cary Bates' three-part *Action* chronicles, but I'm also sick, sick, sick of the predictable

form the sagas have assumed. Part 1 is always mildly intriguing and unclear, Part 3 is overlong and overloaded with Cary's celebrated plot-twists, and worst of all, Part 2 is eventless and just plain *blech*. Falling under the last category, "The Phantom Touch of Death" proved flawless in adhering to this pattern. As an 11-page primer on Kryptonian anatomy, it was easily forgettable: as a *Superman* story, it was one big yawn. If Mr. Bates expects me to puzzle and writhe with curiosity over the possibilities of *Faora's* plan—forget it, Cary, I've seen too many "master plans" in my years of comic reading for my interest to be aroused without at least some hint of what the plan involves. As for *Superman* projecting himself into the *Phantom Zone* with the words, "It's the only place I'll be safe from *Faora*"—I say leave him there. It's the only place he'll be safe from Cary Bates.

I've never been under the impression that Steve Lombard rates as one of your more popular supporting characters, so I can't imagine why you're giving him back-up space. The plot of "If I'm over Here..." was fun, however, the dialogue amusing, and the appearance of Steve, Clark, Lois, Jimmy, Josh and Bruce in one six-pager enough to make me excuse you all for your decision to give the space to Steve.

Thomas Kraker
Little Harbor Rd.

Portsmouth, N.H. 03801

(Maybe Cary should spend some time in the *Phantom Zone*—to be safe from his more vehement critical—E.N.B.)

Dear legend-creators:

A fine piece of work! Finally, in *Action* #472, we see the result of a confrontation between *Superman* and a *Kryptonian* trained in fighting. And it's a woman! What a brilliant contrast! The son of a scientist and the daughter of who knows how long a line of super-criminals. I look forward to when *Super* uses his brains instead of his brawn to defeat *Faora*, and shows once and for all that when two people are on the same power level, it is the smarter, not the stronger, who wins.

I hadn't thought of *Kryptonians* having different reflexes than *Terrans*. It is an interesting idea. But concerning *Faora's* escape from the *Phantom Zone*, are we to understand that all *PZ* convicts have telepathic powers? Or was *Faora* gifted from birth? Clarification, please.

Oh, yes, you did have an extra in this issue. Need I point out that you just had a "double" story last ish? Don't get me wrong. I thought "If...There" was fair. It's just that I wish you could mix your extras with a little more variety. Let me tell you, though, I liked seeing Bruce Wayne immensely.

I hope you print my letter. I find the last letter you printed from Texas was that of a dog named Chula, back in #488. Now, that's a little bad. (What do I care? I'm an Okie and I'm fixing to go to OUI!)

Andrew C. Taylor

R.N. 2
Canadian, TX 78014

(*Faora* does have some strange powers, but all *Phantom Zoners* use telepathy, as that's the only means of communication in that dimension. And I'll leave you with an OK—the abbreviation of your home state—and mine!—E. Nelson Bridwell)

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(FILL IN YOUR FAVORITE CANCELLED TITLE)

A few months ago, Sol Harrison and I attended the annual meeting of the Atlantic Coast's Independent Distributors Association. ACIDA is primarily for wholesalers, but we publishers still make a respectable showing there along with our symbiotic colleagues, the national distributors.

At a workshop one morning, a wholesaler angrily complained that we publishers are an irresponsible, uncaring lot, glutting the market (and his warehouses) with lackluster magazines that—if we're *lucky*—sell 30 percent of the number of copies printed.

"You'll put anything out there," he reviled us, "You'll take a 70% return because it's probably the nineteenth book you're publishing that month and you can spread your overhead and maybe even make a buck. But is that any way to put out a magazine? Why don't you do demographic studies and figure out what the public wants *before* you print up three hundred thousand copies and loose 'em on us?"

It just so happened that our friendly neighborhood competitor, Stan Lee, volunteered to answer the assault and beat us to the punch. "Hey" said Stan, "you can't seriously think we purposely put out a magazine that we know will sell 30 percent? We want a successful mag

as much as the next guy. But you don't plan a magazine by demographics. If that worked, we'd all have winners each time out. You've got to go by what you feel. Demographics are only really used after the fact to confirm in number what you instinctively felt was right all along."

I quote Stan because he's right. That's what the magazine business—or the comic book business—is all about. Someone develops an idea. You think it's terrific. That is, you think you'd want to read that comic book yourself. After that, all you can do is put together the best team for the project.

Then you hope that the wholesalers will give your new book a fair shake and see that it gets out there and stays out there. Hope that the retailers give it good display. Hope that the buyer will feel the sincerity with which the comic was created and stay with it, giving it a chance to seek and find its own unique identity.

But what happens if you've had five issues out there and your comic actually is selling 30 percent? Basically, you've got two alternatives, you either "kill" the book or you try to "fix" it.

Which book do you kill and which do you fix? Low sales are not enough in themselves to cancel a title. The answer lies only in a rigorous

reevaluation of the comic's inherent quality, with the following questions always kept in mind:

1. Just how much money is the comic book losing?
2. Is top talent being drained by the book when the same artist and writer could be freed to create something else?
3. Is the creative team still committed to the book despite its low sales? Do they want the chance to try to turn the comic around?
4. Was the reason for putting out the book truly a sincere one?
5. Is the central character of the book in some way part of comic mythology and should special efforts be bent to keep him/her in the public eye?
6. Is the book augmenting or diminishing the prestige of the DC line?

There are other questions to ask, and often the whole raft of questions must be asked again even after a book's been fixed. A fix, after all, isn't always for the better.

On the other hand, some books deserve resurrection. If one of your favorite titles has been cancelled, let us know why you feel it ought to live again.

Hope you're having a good summer, let's hear from you ...

JENETTE

What can you say about the man who has the reputation of being the top comic book artist of the day? No matter what one can say about Neal Adams, his artwork has already said it. The only thing missing is some of the background information.

Born June 5, 1941, Neal received his basic training from Manhattan's School of Industrial Art, a sort of vocational high school. After graduation, he picked up work over at Archie comics (yes, Neal Adams started out as an Archie artist) and moved on to assisting on the *Ben Masterson* newspaper strip, and to doing commercial work in the advertising field. Finally, Neal landed the *Ben Casey* comic strip—which wound up in some 365 papers across the country.

When the Casey strip was discontinued (oddly enough, it was at

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Neal Adams

the height of its success), Neal moved over to DC Comics, where he worked on Jerry Lewis and Bob Hope stories, and on war material for former editor Bob Kanigher. Various *Superman* and *Batman* covers followed.

It's relatively easy for an editor to tell when he's working with true artistic talent—you look at the artist's work. In Neal's case, talent certainly wins out every time, and it wasn't long before he inherited the more experimental assignments: *Deadman*, *The Spectre*, *Green Lantern*—

Green Arrow.

The 1970's has been a time for stretching and for movement. Breaking down barriers at both DC and Marvel, Neal's work started having a similar effect in other media: paperback covers, movie posters, record jackets ... Neal even designed and costumed the world's first—and only—three-part science-fiction play, *WARP*.

In order to help juggle the myriad of existences, and to help cultivate and train new talent, Neal joined with his long-time friend and inker, Dick Giordano, in the establishment of a studio, Continuity Associates.

As for the future—well, after the upcoming release of *Superman Vs. Muhammad Ali*, Neal will no doubt continue to break down artistic barriers and over whom the multitudes of comic-art fans and lovers.

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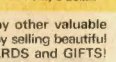
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